[*Translation*]

Modernisation of Bareilly-Junction

2958. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to modernise Bareilly Junction of Northern Railway in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Railway Lines in Bihar

2959. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of railway lines constructed in Bihar during Seventh Plan; and

(b) the length of railway lines electrified in the State so far and the names of the railway lines proposed to be electrified in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) 32.7 kms between Tupkadih and Talgaria.

(b) 989 Kms have been electrified so far Following railway electrification schemes falling in Bihar have already been approved for execution;

1. Sonnagar-Patratu

2. Chittranjan-Jhajha (As part of Sitarampur-Jhajha)

3. Gomia-Patratu

4. Bokaro-Pundag; Muri-Orga & Rapra-Kiriburu (As part of Bokaro-Kiriburu).

Conversion of Railway Lines in Bihar

2960. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert any railway line into broad gauge in Bihar during 1991; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Chhapra-Aunrihar gauge conversion work has already been started. It is targetted for completion in 1993-94.

[*English*]

Open Cast Mining

2961. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether open cast mining poses a lot of hazards; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to rehabilitate the affected persons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). Opencast mining is relatively much safer compared to underground mining operations. The opencast mining does cause environmental pollution arising from land degradation, air and water pollution and also displacement of people living in the mining block. Adequate steps are being taken for controlling pollution of air